

Remarks of Joyce Ward, Connecticut Teacher

**To the Education Committee
On S.B. No. 24, AN ACT CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS**

February 21, 2012

I am writing in regards to the proposed reform for teacher tenure. As a fifth-year teacher who just received tenure, I am disappointed to hear the Governor say that teacher tenure ensures teachers a job for life. It is just not true. Before teachers receive tenure, they can be let go for just about anything. Once tenured, teachers can still easily lose their jobs if they are found to be ineffective or inappropriate. If ineffective teachers are working in the state of Connecticut, it is not the fault of all the teachers in the state; it is the fault of the administrators who are not conducting accurate evaluations and are not counseling the teachers to help them improve. Teachers should not be attacked for attaining tenure; administrators should be blamed for not doing their jobs and counseling or dismissing these ineffective teachers. Do not change the teacher tenure law because other people are not performing their job responsibilities.